



Public Services Committee
Thursday 15 June 2017 - 6.30 pm

Present: Councillors E Jaquin [Chairman], Mrs W Clark, R G Heseltine, Mrs P Heseltine, P Madeley and Mrs K McIntyre.

Also present: Councillor J Kerr

Officers: Dave Parker [Chief Officer] and Les Chandler [Estate Manager]

1. To accept representations from the Public between 6.30 pm and 6.45 pm.

Given the lack of clarity in the Council's Standing Orders on the issue it was **AGREED** that Council should determine, urgently, the extent to which Councillors who are not members of a committee can be involved in committee business.

Cllrs Mrs Clark, R G Heseltine and Mrs K McIntyre left the meeting.

Cllr Kerr left the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.50 pm and resumed at 7.10 pm.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr J W Dawson (holiday).

Absent: Cllr Emmerson.

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

None.

4. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

None.

5. To approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on 11 May 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2017 were accepted as a true and fair record of what transpired at that meeting.

6. To report and receive information arising from the minutes of items not on the Agenda from Members and the Chief Officer.

Holy Trinity churchyard boundary wall – North Yorkshire County Council's Area Highways Manager has confirmed that the authority would meet the cost of widening the pedestrian footway on the section of The Bailey adjoining the churchyard wall if the Town Council decides to move the wall back from its current position.

Breach of allotment tenancy agreement – the tenant concerned has appealed the Committee's decision; the appeal will be heard by Full Council at its meeting in July 2017.

The Ginnel Play Area – the owner of the access road into the play area has demanded to see documentary evidence of the Council's right to use the access for maintenance purposes; as the Town Council's landlord Craven District Council has been asked to provide the relevant documents.

Coach Street Toilets – the faulty hand drier has been replaced free of charge because, although the warranty period has expired, the unit has been in use for slightly less than three years.

Allotments Working Group – the date of the Group's next meeting has yet to be confirmed.

Highways verges grass-cutting – the Council's decision to bring highways verge grass-cutting in-house has been vindicated with several residents commenting on "much improved standards".

7. To decide what further action the Council should take with regard to the sewage spill at North Parade Recreation Ground.

In the interests of public safety it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should install stock fencing around the area contaminated by sewage at North Parade Recreation Ground to prevent public access until it becomes clearer whether the proposed adjacent development is going ahead, in which case the land will be excavated and restored.

If the proposed development does not go ahead it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should replace the contaminated soil and turf and invoice Yorkshire Water, the authority responsible for the contamination, for the costs involved and any related expenses the Council has incurred as a result of the sewage spill.

8. To decide whether to continue to pursue a scheme to provide a new vehicle access into Middletown Allotments from Pinhaw Road.

Given that the roadway up to Middletown Allotments from East Castle Street is becoming increasingly hazardous for vehicles and is unlikely to be repaired to the required standard by the landowner - Craven District Council - it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Seek quotations for the provision of an alternative access road along the eastern boundary of Middletown Recreation Ground and identify potential funding for the work now that it cannot be included as part of the s106 agreement for the Firth Street Mill development.
- Advise the Allotments Working Group that the East Castle Street access may have to be closed to motorised vehicles following recent accidents involving the Council's grounds maintenance vehicles and EWS Skips' refusal to use the road because of safety concerns.

9. To decide: whether an application to keep a cockerel at Middletown Allotments should be approved; whether clauses 3.9.1 and 3.9.2 of the Council's allotment tenancy agreement should be amended to make it clearer whether or not tenants can apply to keep cockerels; and whether or not the Council should ask the tenant at Middletown, who already keeps cockerels, to remove the birds from his allotment or seek retrospective approval.

Because of the problems associated with cockerels on allotments in residential areas, and in accordance with s12 Allotments Act 1950, which prohibits the keeping of animals which cause a nuisance, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should:

- reject an application to keep a cockerel at Middletown Allotments;
- amend clauses 3.9.1 and 3.9.2 of the Council's allotment tenancy agreement, with effect from 1 October 2017, to make it clear that tenants cannot keep cockerels; and
- ask the tenant at Middletown, who already keeps cockerels without permission, to remove the birds from his allotment by 30 September 2017.

10. To decide whether faulty play equipment at Broughton Road Play Area should be removed or replaced.

Given its popularity, and the fact that local residents have offered to contribute towards the cost involved, it was **RESOLVED** to replace the unserviceable spring rocker at Broughton Road Play Area at a cost of £891.00 ex VAT.

11. To receive any updates regarding: projects and initiatives being supported by Skipton BID; the Market Management Group; and Footfall Counter data.

Skipton BID: the Board of Directors has not met since the Committee's last meeting.

Market Management Group: the market trader who assaulted one of his fellow traders has now signed an undertaking guaranteeing his future behaviour; any transgression will result in the revocation of his Consent to Trade.

Footfall Counter data: at 413,000 the footfall figures for May 2017 were the second highest since counters were installed, exceeded only by April 2017 which recorded a

footfall of 440,000, thanks in large part to the Tour de Yorkshire, the Waterways Festival and the Easter holiday. The June figures to date have revealed two interesting features: one is that the Car Show attracted a footfall of 20,500 compared to the usual average for a Sunday of 9,000; the other is that footfall on the day of Skipton Gala was only 13,600 which is the lowest ever total for a Saturday. The Gala is a significant event in the local calendar but clearly it does little for the town's retailers.

12. To receive notification of matters that members would like included on a future agenda.

None.

Meeting closed at 8.08 pm.

Chairman:

Signature:

Date: